

COLCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY: STUDENT ATTENDANCE

DATE ADOPTED: September 5, 2023

PURPOSE

The Colchester School District believes that regular attendance is critical to the academic, social and emotional growth of all children. Regular attendance is essential if a student is to receive maximum benefit from instructional programs and to assure the development of responsible and effective work and study habits.

It is the policy of the Colchester School District to set high expectations for consistent student school attendance in accordance with Vermont law to facilitate and enhance student learning. Students who are (1) children between the ages of 6 and 16 years who are residents of the district; (2) non-resident pupils who enroll in district schools; and (3) children over the age of 16 who are enrolled in a district school, are required to attend school for the full number of days that school is held unless they are excused from attendance as provided in state law.

DEFINITIONS

For this policy, “truant” shall mean:

1. A student between the ages of 6 and 16 years who is not excused from school attendance and fails to enter school at the beginning of the academic year or being enrolled, fails to attend school.
or,
2. A student who is at least 16 years of age, is enrolled in public school, fails to attend and is not excused from school attendance.

A student may be excused from compulsory attendance if:

1. The student is mentally or physically unable to attend.
2. The student has completed the tenth grade and is not enrolled in public school.
3. The student is excused by the superintendent or most of the school board.
or,
4. The student is enrolled in and attending a postsecondary school which is approved or accredited in Vermont or another state.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. The principal or designee is responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of student attendance. The principal and families will work together for assuring that

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the school has the appropriate family information that allows the school to contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of all students whenever necessary.

2. The superintendent shall develop administrative rules and procedures to ensure the implementation of this policy. The procedures will address the following issues:
 - written excuses,
 - tardiness,
 - notification of parent(s)/guardian(s),
 - signing out of school,
 - chronic absenteeism,
 - homebound and hospitalized students,
 - early dismissals,
 - homework assignments and
 - making up work.

The procedures may address other issues as well, including educational neglect.

*Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. § 1121 et seq. (Attendance by Children of School Age Required)
16 V.S.A. § 1122 (Students over 16)
16 V.S.A. § 1125 (Truant Officers)
16 V.S.A. § 1126 (Failure to Attend; Notice)*

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.